

10-4 Study Guide and Intervention

Solving Quadratic Equations by Using the Quadratic Formula

Quadratic Formula To solve the standard form of the quadratic equation, $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, use the **Quadratic Formula**.

Quadratic Formula	the formula $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ that gives the solutions of $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, where $a \neq 0$
--------------------------	---

Example 1 Solve $x^2 + 2x = 3$ by using the Quadratic Formula.

Rewrite the equation in standard form.

$$\begin{array}{ll} x^2 + 2x = 3 & \text{Original equation} \\ x^2 + 2x - 3 = 3 - 3 & \text{Subtract 3 from each side.} \\ x^2 + 2x - 3 = 0 & \text{Simplify.} \end{array}$$

Now let $a = 1$, $b = 2$, and $c = -3$ in the Quadratic Formula.

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \\ &= \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{(2)^2 - 4(1)(-3)}}{2(1)} \\ &= \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{16}}{2} \\ x &= \frac{-2 + 4}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad x = \frac{-2 - 4}{2} \\ &= 1 \quad \quad \quad = -3 \end{aligned}$$

The solution set is $\{-3, 1\}$.

Example 2 Solve $x^2 - 6x - 2 = 0$ by using the Quadratic Formula. Round to the nearest tenth if necessary.

For this equation $a = 1$, $b = -6$, and $c = -2$.

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \\ &= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{(-6)^2 - 4(1)(-2)}}{2(1)} \\ &= \frac{6 \pm \sqrt{44}}{2} \\ x &= \frac{6 + \sqrt{44}}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad x = \frac{6 - \sqrt{44}}{2} \\ &\approx 6.3 \quad \quad \quad \approx -0.3 \end{aligned}$$

The solution set is $\{-0.3, 6.3\}$.

Exercises

Solve each equation by using the Quadratic Formula. Round to the nearest tenth if necessary.

- $x^2 - 3x + 2 = 0$
- $m^2 - 8m = -16$
- $16r^2 - 8r = -1$
- $x^2 + 5x = 6$
- $3x^2 + 2x = 8$
- $8x^2 - 8x - 5 = 0$
- $-4c^2 + 19c = 21$
- $2p^2 + 6p = 5$
- $48x^2 + 22x - 15 = 0$
- $8x^2 - 4x = 24$
- $2p^2 + 5p = 8$
- $8y^2 + 9y - 4 = 0$
- $2x^2 + 9x + 4 = 0$
- $8y^2 + 17y + 2 = 0$
- $3z^2 + 5z - 2 = 0$
- $-2x^2 + 8x + 4 = 0$
- $a^2 + 3a = 2$
- $2y^2 - 6y + 4 = 0$